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# **Executive Outcomes: Mercenary Corporation OSINT Guide**

Dr. Robert J. Bunker and Steven F. Marin Copyright © July 1999

The open source references contained in this resource guide pertain to the recently defunct South Africa based mercenary corporation Executive Outcomes (EO) which operated as "mining and oil industry shock troops." The references span the 1994 through 1999 period. EO activities, from its founding in 1989 through 1993, escaped the attention of the world media. With EO's increasing involvement in Angola and later Sierra Leone and Papua New Guinea, this mercenary corporation lost much of its transparency. As a result, its activities became increasingly scrutinized by the press, defense researchers, and other concerned parties.

With the passage of the new anti-mercenary law in South Africa, EO closed its doors 1 January 1999. The "mercenary corporation EO" thus officially existed from 1989 through 1998. As of March 1999, however, the EO Pretoria office was still open, with its associates most likely continuing their activities at a greatly reduced level of visibility under the banner of Lifeguard, Saracen, or another security firm linked to EO.

When researching EO, it must be understood that Eeben Barlow, its founder, was associated with the Civil Cooperation Bureau (CCB) which had expertise in setting up front-companies to circumvent sanctions against apartheid era South Africa. With the demise of apartheid, individuals such as Barlow redirected these and other skills for private enterprise purposes. As a result, EO is connected to a weblike structure of multinational holding entities, mining and oil companies, and security and air transportation groups which have purposefully been created to mask its operations, those of its allied firms, and the various individuals involved. This network engages in what could be termed a post-Cold war form of "predatory capitalism" by specializing in the extraction of mineral and oil resources from troubled and failed-states.

This resource guide is arranged into three categories with a summary of each category's scope provided below:

I. EO Homepage and Documents. Focuses upon the EO homepage which is no longer active. This homepage was active from at least November 1994 through August 1998. The only way to obtain information once contained on the EO homepage is to access digital copies or obtain hard copies of these files.

- II. **Traditional Sources**. Primarily concerns newspaper, magazine, and journal articles, radio transcripts, and reports. Some links to digital copies of these sources have been provided.
- III. **Website and Electronic Sources**. Contains numerous South African, British, and Australian on-line publications with their internet addresses. A great deal of source material is also provided from the Center for Defense Information (CDI) website and other electronic media.

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### IV. Notes

1. This resource guide was created over a three year period from 1996 through 1999. Special thanks to Elizabeth Ryan and Drew Lewis who served as initial research assistants on this project. Information also provided by Dr. Tom Adams, Capt. Mike Flaherty, USAF, Sgt. John Sullivan, LASD, Roger McFarland, and Holly Porteous